

No. 20-22 Summer Place  
Fort Leavenworth  
Leavenworth County  
Kansas

HABS No. KANS-8

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52-FOLEV

3-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEYHABS  
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NO. 20-22 SUMNER PLACE

Street Address: No. 20-22 Sumner Place, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.Present Owner: U. S. Government.Present Occupants: U. S. Army Officers and families.Present Use: Residences.Brief Statement of Significance: This handsome building is one of the finer military residences constructed in territorial times and served as the home of the post commanders from 1840 to 1890.PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: U. S. Government.
2. Date of erection: 1839-1840. (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Patch Community Library, photostat from National Archives, Washington, D. C., Record Group 77, Old Army Section, "Plan of Barracks for Six Companies of Dragoons and Four of Infantry to be erected at Fort Leavenworth, 1837, scale 50'=1", " /shows plan of No. 20-22 Sumner Place/ ). (Federal Writer's Project, Kansas, A Guide to the Sunflower State, Hastings House, N. Y., 1949, p.241, "It was built about 1840----").
3. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: No information.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Patch Community Library, photostat from National Archives, Washington, D. C., Record Group 77, Old Army Section, "Plan of Barracks for Six Companies of Dragoons and Four of Infantry to be erected at Fort Leavenworth, 1837, scale 50'=1" ).
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The "ell" addition is probably after 1876 or 1878 (per a photo seen by Mrs. Johnson, present occupant, in an interview June 23, 1958).

The building was remodeled so as to provide separate apartments on the first and second floors. Screens were added to the west porches. A railing was removed from the eaves. (Per Mrs. Johnson, present occupant, in an interview, June 23, 1958).

6. Important old views listed (with location): Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Patch Community Library, a collection of photostats from the National Archives, Washington, D. C. (collected by Colonel Parker).
  - a. "Plan of Barracks for Six Companies of Dragoons and Four of Infantry to be erected at Ft. Leavenworth", 1837, scale 50"-1".
  - b. "Plan of Ft. Leavenworth", n.d. (1837 ?), no scale.
  - c. No title, plan, 1839, no scale.
  - d. "Map of Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, c.1855, no scale.
  - e. "Quarters at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas", 2 sheets, August 1866, scale 32'-1".
  - f. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Photograph Division, FK2.L3, F75, D, 1869 photo which shows the original front steps, the roof balustrade, and the porch without screens.
  - g. Also: FK2.L3, F, a photostat of a drawing of Fort Leavenworth in 1838 by George Fray.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The building was the residence of Fort Leavenworth post commanders from 1840 to 1890. It is still used as officer's quarters. Military personnel who have lived in this house include: General William T. Sherman, Brig. General Harney, Col. R. I. Dodge, Col. Phillip St. George Cooke, and Col. E. V. Sumner.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

1. National Archives, Washington, D. C., Old Army Station and Public Building Service.
2. Leavenworth County Historical Society, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Prepared by g. C. Noffsinger Date 7/58

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: This impressive brick structure has fine interior walnut woodwork and other architectural detailing of note. Much of the original design remains.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent and well maintained.

## B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Forty (40) feet by fifty-six (56) feet (not including the addition).
2. Foundations: Native limestone.
3. Wall construction: Solid brick walls twenty-four (24) inches thick on first floor. The brick is laid up in common bond.
4. Porches: There is a front (southwest) and rear (northwest) porch. The front porch is wooden and is two stories high. The posts are squared and chamfered with simple moldings to give a classical effect. An ornate baluster is used on both floors. The cornice is very plain. The porch has been screened in recently. The rear porch is of the most simple design in wood. It is quite possible that neither porch is original.
5. Chimneys: Twin brick chimneys are built into the side walls.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The doorways have sidelights and transoms and are of panelled wood construction. Brick flat arches are used for lintels and stone for the thresholds.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Twelve-paned sash windows. The main windows have sash type side lights and

operate as window-doors. Some original panes of glass remain. Brick flat arches are used for the lintels and stone for the sills. On each side wall there is a 16-pane sash window between the twin chimneys which opens into the attic.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Pitched roof with modern tin covering (framework of heavy walnut pegged timbers).
- b. Cornice, eaves: Very simple (wood painted white).
- c. Dormers, cupolas: None

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor Plans: There are four rooms in each of the three levels to the house. Since the house has been modified to accommodate two families, the use of the rooms has changed. The original spacious stair hall has been divided--the stairway now leading from an outside door directly upstairs. Originally, the ground level presumably served as servants' quarters and as a kitchen. It is now a place for storage.
2. Stairways: In the remodelling some parts of the stairway were probably used (newel post) but the plan was probably changed.
3. Flooring: Original maple flooring exists in fine condition.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls have been plastered and either painted or wallpapered.
5. Doorways and doors: The doorways are wood with panelling and have pegged construction. The doors are wood pegged panelled construction.
6. Trim: Original trim has a simple design and is painted walnut.

7. Hardware: Most of the hardware appears to have been replaced.
8. Lighting: No original lighting remains.
9. Heating: Steam radiators have been added.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: On the east side of the parade ground on a level lot, the front of the house faces west.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks, driveways, etc.: Modern concrete walks lead to front and back doors.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: There are trees near the house.

Prepared by JR Hoffinger date 7/58